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New books compatible with student abilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — New school textbooks being prepared for the next stage in education in Jordan take into consideration differences in learning capabilities between students at the compulsory and secondary stages, according to the director of the Ministry of Education's Curriculum Department, Ahmad Hiyasat.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Hiyasat said that this was being done particularly in the subjects of sciences, languages, history, and geography and in a manner that would suit the levels of all stages.

Hiyasat said the new curricula also focus attention on links between subjects to be taught and the general environment and also on the extensive use of computers, videos and radio cassettes as well as audio and television programmes.

The Ministry of Education's council endorsed the new curricula plan last November and stressed that textbooks should take into consideration the students' psychological and physiological tendencies and needs, Hiyasat added.

Hiyasat, who estimated the cost of overhauling the whole curricula at JD 203,334,000, said that books would offer common basic subjects for students in the different streams.

Hiyasat said a total of JD 433 million will be spent on all aspects of the new educational system, which will be applied in three stages, ending in 1998.

The Ministry of Education, in light of the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the first national educational conference held in 1987, has made plans to introduce reforms to the educational system lasting 10 years, Hiyasat pointed out. He said that apart from the school curricula, the Ministry of Education was introducing changes and improvements to educational techniques and methods, constructing school buildings and upgrading teachers' qualifications through continued training.

UAE president donates \$20m; Iraqi leader pledges \$21m

Queen Noor praises efforts to revive Alexandria library

ASWAN (Agencies) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday landed the effort to revive the 3rd Century B.C. library of Alexandria as "an exemplary international effort to revitalise, and therefore to honour, one aspect of humankind's common intellectual culture and heritage."

Speaking in Aswan, Egypt, during the first meeting of the International Commission for the Revival of the Ancient Library of Alexandria, Queen Noor said: "The history of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, its enlightened inception, grand flourishing, and its ultimate demise encapsulate an irrepressible human dynamic whose constructive elements we are challenged today to appreciate and to emulate: a dynamic of cultural interaction and international cooperation, and of people coming together to share knowledge, experience and resources in the quest of that which ancient philosophers called 'the good life'."

The commission, which comprises several heads of state and prominent international personalities, including King Hassan of Morocco, Sultan Qabus of Oman, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan

Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates, French President Francois Mitterrand, Queen Sofia of Spain, Suzanne Mubarak, and Prince Turki Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud, was convened at the invitation of Egyptian President Mohammad Hosni Mubarak and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The meeting launches the second stage of an international campaign to support the project to build a new library which would perpetuate the ancient library's role as a centre of international scholarship.

The project aims to create a "Bibliotheca Alexandrina" which may become as renowned as the original Ptolemaic library of the third century B.C. The library will be part of a larger complex that will also include an international school of information sciences, a centre for the restoration of ancient manuscripts, and a congress centre for meetings of up to 2,500 people. The library will open its doors in 1995 with an initial collection of 200,000 volumes, which will be expanded in stages to four and then to eight million volumes. It will focus on



HM Queen Noor

the history, geography and the culture of the Mediterranean Basin and the Near East, and its computerised data base and catalogue will be accessible internationally through computer and telecommunications links.

To site the new library, Egypt is providing a four-hectare plot of land on the Alexandria seashore where the Palace of Ptolemy formerly stood. The total construction and equipping of the library complex will cost an estimated \$160 million (\$60 million estimated value of the land contributed by the government, \$60 million for construction, and \$40 million to equip the complex and organise the initial collections).

Sheikh Zayed became the library's first foreign sponsor by announcing contribution of \$20 million. Sheikh Zayed and President Mubarak joined the closing session of Monday's ceremonies.

President Saddam Hussein in a phone call to President Mubarak pledged \$21 million for the library.

Foreign ministry official arrives in Amman

Cyprus condemns settlement of Soviet Jews in territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Cypriot official Monday condemned the settlement of Soviet Jews in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying it would hinder Middle East peace.

"The settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories is unethical," Angelos Angelides, undersecretary in the Cypriot Foreign Ministry, said on arrival in Amman.

"This is a dangerous move as it goes against international norms and threatens efforts to achieve peace in the area," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Angelides as saying.

Angelides also condemned Israel's practices against the Palestinians living in the occupied territories and called for total Israeli withdrawal from all Arab lands as a first step for the establishment of a just and durable peace.

Angelides said that Cyprus supports peace based on justice, which can be reached through an international conference in which

all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), should take part.

Cyprus supports direct negotiations between the parties to the conflict in the Middle East, and the talks can best be conducted through such an international conference, Angelides added.

Angelides said Cyprus maintains strong ties with Jordan in all fields, and within this context, he plans to sign an agreement on cooperation in culture and science between Cyprus and Jordan.

Angelides said the Cypriot people "deeply respect and appreciate His Majesty King Hussein's wise policies, which serve as a stabilising factor in the Middle East of which Cyprus is an integral part." He said more than a thousand Jordanians were currently present in Cyprus, either as students or on business, and that ties between the two countries were continually progressing in all fields.

The release of the black African leader Nelson Mandela, Angelides said, "is a victory for justice and democracy and it proves that justice will triumph in the end." Angelides expressed hope that the release of Mandela would signal the beginning of the end of the Palestinian people's sufferings as well.

Upon his arrival here on a three-day visit to Jordan, Angelides was welcomed by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Mutaseem Al Bilbeisi and other officials.

Soon after his arrival, Angelides held a meeting with Bilbeisi to review bilateral relations and the general situation in the Middle East with special attention on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine issue, Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and current attempts to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions were also reviewed. In addition, the situation in Lebanon and in the Gulf were also reviewed.

Germany's Green Week pays off for Jordanian exporters

AMMAN (J.T.) — One of the early positive returns from Jordan's participation in last month's Green Week exhibition held in West Berlin was a rise in demand for Jordanian agricultural products sent to the director of the Jordanian pavilion Mohammad Awamleh.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Awamleh said that the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO), which organised the display of Jordanian products, received notification by telex from one of the main West German firms requesting 20 tonnes of vegetables as soon as possible.

Jordan exports agricultural produce to countries of the European Community (EC) and Arab countries by air, and Germany is among the EC countries which import limited quantities of Jordanian products.

Awamleh was speaking following a meeting held to assess Jordan's performance at the exhibition, which was attended by exporters from many countries. A group of 10 Jordanian exporters visited the exhibition, where several place loads of Jordanian vegetables and fruit were displayed.

Jordan displayed pepper, cucumbers, tomatoes, green beans, eggplants and lemons as well as other products at the exhibition, which lasted until Feb. 4.

One of the exporters, Mutaseem Khalil, said that one of the major problems impeding Jordanian exports was the cost of air freight. Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, which normally flies the produce to Europe, "lacks a clear policy with regard to charges and the volume of vegetables and crops that its aircraft can carry," he said.

Last October a dispute erupted between exporters and RJ following the airline's decision to raise freight costs to Europe from 190 fils to 400 fils for kilograms. Exporters claimed the increase, which took effect five months ago, made it economically impossible for them to continue exports to Europe, but RJ insisted that the revised charges were still reasonable.

According to Mohammad Atiyeh, one of the Jordanian exporters who attended the exhibition, the cost of air freight was the main stumbling block for exporters. He said the lack of available packaging material and absence of coordination were also impeding the export process.

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Jordan reviews agriculture ties with Japan, Oman and ACC

AMMAN (J.T.) — Bilateral relations in the field of agriculture between Jordan and Japan, Oman and the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) were the focus of a series of separate meetings held here Monday by Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat.

Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Tadayuki Nonoyama heard a briefing from the minister about Jordan's agricultural exports to Arab and European countries. Arabiyat and Nonoyama stressed the need for upgrading the level of bilateral cooperation in agricultural matters, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Omani Ambassador Mohammad Sultan discussed with the minister ways to promote bilateral cooperation in agriculture. Arabiyat expressed the Ministry of Agriculture's readiness to provide Oman with Jordanian agricultural expertise and extended an invitation to the Omani minister of agriculture to pay a visit to Jordan.

Arabiyat met with ACC Secretary General Hani Nammur to discuss an agreement on agricultural cooperation with ACC countries which, besides Jordan, include Egypt, Iraq and

North Yemen. Arabiyat stressed the need for integration in agricultural production within the ACC bloc and further facilities to be provided in exchanging agricultural products among the four countries. He said agriculture would be among the main topics on the agenda of the ACC summit to be held here Feb. 24.

Nammur said that the ACC secretariat was finalising a working paper on an ACC agricultural agreement which will give priority to food security in the summit's discussions.

Ministry reduces prices of cooking oil, fish, meat

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Nabil Abdel Huda Monday reduced prices of some types of vegetable cooking oil as well as frozen fish and meat imported for the private sector. The prices take immediate effect.

"The measure was adopted in accordance with the directives of the committee in charge of revising the cost of food supplies and other commodities," an official spokesman at the Ministry of Supply said Monday.

	Weight or size	Old price	New price
Frozen beef	1kg	1.700	1.375
Frozen fish	1kg	1.085	0.835
Vegetable cooking oil	3 litres	1.930	1.330
Palm oil	15 litres	8.540	8.000
Soya oil	15 litres	11.465	11.280
Corn oil	3 litres	3.170	3.060

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Panel to study press law

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Ibrahim Izidin has decided to form a committee to study the Press and Publication Law. The formation of this committee results from the government's commitment to the Lower House of Parliament "to revise and study this law."

Arar invited to visit India

AMMAN (J.T.) — India's Ambassador to Jordan K. Gajendra Singh Monday discussed parliamentary relations between Jordan and India during a meeting with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar. Singh extended an invitation to Arar on behalf of the Indian parliament to visit India at the head of a Jordanian parliamentary delegation and said that his country would like to send a parliamentary team to Jordan. Arar also met here Monday with Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Chiang Liang and discussed Jordanian-Chinese parliamentary cooperation.

Karak resumes issuance of work permits

KARAK (Petra) — The labour office in Karak Governorate has resumed issuing work permits to non-Jordanians who present the required official documents, according to the office's director, Jumana Rawashdeh. Rawashdeh also said that his office received applications from 50 Jordanians, 35 of whom have now been given jobs at various companies and institutions since the Ministry of Labour announced stringent measures against illegal guest workers.

Zarqa to take more W. Bank students

AMMAN (Petra) — Community colleges in Zarqa have expressed readiness to accept West Bank students exceeding the percentage set by the Ministry of Higher Education because a large number of applicants has so far not been accepted. "Although the Ministry of Higher Education has increased the percentage of admittance from three per cent to five per cent, this did not help solve the problem of West Bank students as hundreds of them are still looking into colleges," an official told Petra. Several students, officials said, have already left for Arab and foreign countries after failing to get admitted to Jordanian community colleges.

Triplets born, in good health

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian woman Sunday gave birth to male triplets after an eight-year period of infertility during which she received medical treatment. The triplets weigh 2,250 grams, 2,100 grams, and 1,900 grams, and are in good health.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Cherens, Mesgach, Mnouchkine, Planchon and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of paintings by Alla Announ, Nobila Elmi and Nawal Abdallah at Abdel Hameed Shamma Foundation (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at Mu'ta University.

FILMS

- A Belgian film entitled "Sailors Don't Cry" at the Philadelphia Cinema — 8:00 p.m.
- A Soviet documentary entitled "Russia's Greys" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.
- A taping of the CBS programme "Face the Nation" on "the Bush administration-Gorbachev's future" at the American Centre — 5:30 p.m.

LOVERS

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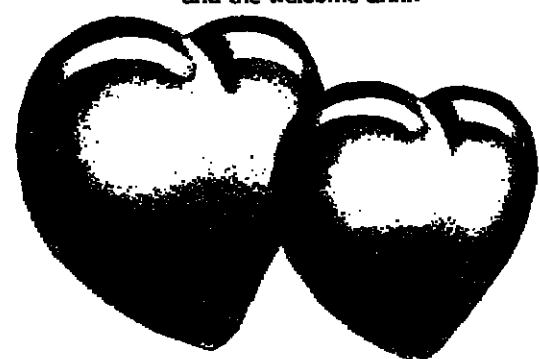
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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Forceful action from the Arabs

THE SOVIET UNION'S move to seek a meeting of the United Nations Security Council in a bid to prevent the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after letting them loose is simply not the best thing Moscow could do. What the Soviet Union is in effect doing is allowing a flood of Soviet Jews to leave the country and then try to build dams across the path of this flood in a bid to harness the direction of this human flood. Instead of controlling the flood after opening the gates in front of it, it would have been considerably more wise and more effective if the flood of Jewish immigration was not allowed to take place in the first place. One has to construe this latest Soviet tactic as simply passing the buck, as if the Soviet responsibility was shifted to the Security Council.

The crux of the problem remains whether to allow Jewish exodus at a time when the peace process is stalled and the probabilities of resettling Soviet Jews on Palestinian soil remain very high. Had the Soviet Union linked such massive Jewish immigration to solving the Palestinian problem, the damage might well be tolerated. But to facilitate massive Jewish immigration and then try to have the United Nations system control the damage is simply unacceptable. Moscow has to reexamine this entire issue and treat it in its traditional sensible way. It is understandable that Moscow attaches now more importance to its relations with the West and Washington in particular but such an aim can be still pursued without any damage to Soviet-Arab relations. But to pretend that Soviet-Arab relations are as good as ever and concurrently allowing such a big threat to the Arab Order to grow into uncontrollable proportions is simply untenable. To go to the United Nations Security Council in search for solutions after causing the problem is tantamount to killing someone and then marching in his funeral. One still doubts that Moscow has this in mind. Nevertheless, the Arab masses will surely interpret the conflicting Soviet moves as a sign of strain in Soviet-Arab relations that needs to be contained before it gets out of hand.

Hopefully, the projected Arab summit if and when it materialises will deal with this issue of Soviet Jews in a clear and effective way. After making appeals to Washington and Moscow to arrest this mushrooming danger, the Arab leaders must be poised to take more forceful actions on the international scene. There are many options available to the Arab states to take in the face of this grave challenge and danger and all that is lacking is simply the political will and determination to do something really serious about it. Hopefully this absent ingredient will be there when the Arab leaders meet next.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO Jordanian daily newspapers Monday commented on the release of Nelson Mandela, the black African leader who has been leading his people towards freedom.

Al Rai daily said that Mandela spent 27 years in prison for fighting apartheid and racial discrimination, but he came out a free man to lead his people towards total freedom from unjust white rule. In his statement to welcome Mandela's release King Hussein was delighted at the turn of events and the release of a prominent freedom fighter, because his release is a victory for justice and a defeat for terrorism and all forces of evil, the paper noted. The release of Mandela is a victory for all oppressed people and a victory for the Palestinian people who are still struggling to achieve freedom like the black Africans, the paper continued. It said that Zionism should take a lesson from South Africa; and should turn its attention now towards peace and stop all its atrocities against the Palestinian people. Nelson Mandela's release, the paper added, is a real defeat for the white minority's terrorist and racial discriminatory rule in South Africa.

Al Dustour Arabic daily on Monday said that King Hussein's praise of the African leader, Nelson Mandela, was a praise of his long struggle for freedom and in the face of injustice. The paper said with this praise the King has expressed the feelings and support of the Jordanian people for the Africans who are waging a battle for their freedom and for all freedom fighters including the Palestinians. The white African government in Pretoria has finally succumbed to pressure exerted by the South African blacks and by the free people of the world, and released Mandela after 27 years in jail, the paper noted. It said that the years of Mandela's imprisonment will remain as a glorious chapter in the history of all freedom seekers in the world, because his release signals the end of injustice in South Africa and his freedom is something to which many oppressed peoples, including the Palestinians, look forward to achieve.

Sawt Al Shamal reflected on a meeting here later this month by the leaders of the four member Arab cooperation Council countries: Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen. The meeting coincides with reports about a grave danger confronting the Arab Nation represented in the Soviet Jewish immigrants who are converging on the occupied Arab territories, the paper noted. It said that this is the second time since 1948 in which the Arabs confront such an immense influx of Jews in Palestine, and they can now realise that the danger of occupation continues to exist and threaten their future. The leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council countries are invited to launch a joint and collective action in the face of the looming danger and the new challenge to the nation, the paper said. It said that the four countries as well as Syria are directly threatened by the new danger; and therefore Arab resources and efforts ought to be pooled and Arab leaders should take the initiative in thwarting Zionist dreams.

The View from Fourth Circle

More of pluralism, less of Camembert

By Rami G. Khouri

THE changes that have taken place in Jordan since early 1988 should be appreciated for what they are: a fundamental, long-term redrawing of Jordan's national parameters, substance and mission. Jordan today is very different from what it was two years ago, and it is better off for the fact. The changes that have taken place fall under several different headings: geography, demography, economy, diplomacy and domestic politics.

1. Geography: The political/administrative disengagement from the West Bank in the summer of 1988 marked a historic delineation of the territory of Jordan. Though this must be formalised at some future moment, it represents an important recognition that Jordan had over-stretched itself geographically. The country physically became smaller — perhaps an apt symbol for the general scaling-down of Jordan's political and economic aspirations which has taken place.

2. Demography: The disengagement from the West Bank was also a historic first step in what I have always viewed as one of the most important items on the post-1948 political agenda of this country — to define and formalise the political and national relationship between Jordan and Palestine. By leaving Palestine to the Palestinians and declaring that Jordan itself was a geographically and demographically smaller state east of the river, Jordan set an example of courage, honesty and self-confidence in the annals of modern Arab statesmanship. It also took a major step towards putting Jordanian-Palestinian ties on the constructive footing that is organically mandated by the symbiotic 20th Century history of these two one people.

Forget, for the moment, the discomfort caused to many individuals and families by the administrative measures imposed by the bureaucracy in the wake of the political decision to disengage. We credit that to a bitter emotional spree which may have been an historical inevitability — a letting off of steam that leaves in its wake more rational and composed people. The disengagement, because it was abrupt and unilateral, was necessarily jarring.

Because Jordan is a more modest country today than it was in early 1988, it is also a more logical and rational country. It can look in on itself and more effectively deal with such key issues as identity, domestic political evolution, economic adjustment and development, and its regional aspirations and role. The disengagement provided the opportunity for Palestinians and Jordanians to forge a political relationship largely unencumbered by long-standing mutual suspicions derived from a sense of competition, to lead a single constituency. In one fell swoop, the one

million Palestinians west of the river were no longer Jordanian nationals. In other words, Jordan recognised that it had over-stretched its natural demographic constituency, and it made the necessary adjustment, with much dignity and rationality.

3. Diplomacy: The mid-1980s were a period of frustration for Jordanian diplomacy. For most of the decade, Jordan, and His Majesty King Hussein in particular, had worked closely with and actively prodded regional and international parties to try to convene an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli issue. Most importantly, it tried feverishly to work with the PLO to bring it into the process; when that failed, Jordan abruptly suspended political coordination with the PLO.

In the end, Jordan's diligent efforts did not succeed. The intifada, the PLO's resurgent diplomacy, and other peace-making-related events (notably the Shamir and Shultz attitudes to peace talks in 1988) caused Jordan to read the landscape and to conclude that this country was neither destined by history nor mandated by Arabism to lead the Palestinians and other Arabs into peace negotiations. Logically, intelligently, and honourably, Jordan disengaged from Palestine, and ceded the regional diplomatic driver's seat to others. As events transpired, the PLO and Egypt have risen to the challenge, Jordan continues to play a role, but not the leading role (and I suspect Syria will soon be in the picture again).

History will commend Jordan for having tried to play a constructive and conciliatory diplomatic role in the 8th and 9th decades of the 20th Century; it will probably conclude that despite its moral virtues and good intentions, Jordan did not have the domestic resources (mainly, political and economic power) necessary for it to achieve its objectives. In other words, Jordan's diplomatic aspirations had over-stretched its indigenous capabilities.

4. Economy: The post-1974 oil-fuelled boom decade in the region caused Jordan to over-stretch itself economically in the same way that it had over-stretched itself in the fields of geography, demography and diplomacy. Partly from traditional attitudes and financial power flows, and partly from being dazzled by the glare of the Gucci shoes, the Italian marble, and the Jacob Delafon French bathtubs, successive Jordanian governments followed a policy that was ambitious and popular, but ultimately untenable. That policy tried to build a complete domestic infrastructure, while providing a full range of social services and, through subsidies and the high value of the dinar, encouraging imported consumerism. It was great while it lasted. If I close my

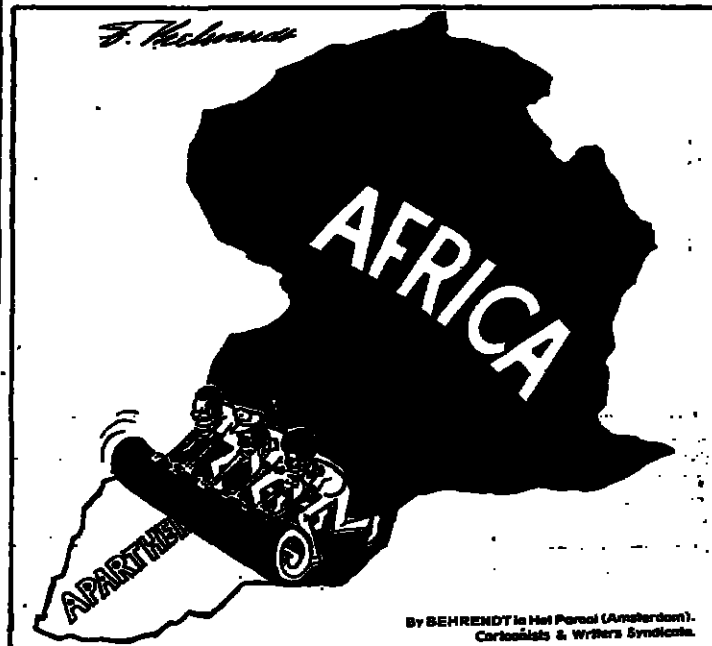
eyes and concentrate hard, I can still remember the taste of the Camembert cheese I used to buy. Government policies opened the door, and we all rushed through it with glee. The blame falls not on one party. It was collective national orgy.

But, of course, it could not last, and we had to come to terms with reality in 1988. The dinar collapsed and — as we slowly savoured the last slice of cheese — foreign exchange reserves were finally depleted. Certainly, the disengagement from Palestine caused political uncertainty among Palestinians abroad, which severely reduced remittances and thereby accelerated the crisis. But the crisis would have come anyway, as it has come in almost every other Arab country since the mid-1980s.

We had over-stretched ourselves economically and enjoyed the good years while they lasted, but now we are engaged in the hard business of once again living within our means. (I am one of those who believe that our means are actually quite impressive, when assessed dispassionately, and that as we approach the middle of this decade, Jordan should be in quite good shape economically if it has the fortitude to maintain today's realistic political and economic policy orientation).

5. Domestic politics: The logical consequence of Jordan's regional re-positioning in the fields mentioned above is for a strong shift in people's focus towards domestic events, both political and economic. The post-1988 economic deterioration required a political response, and received it. The revival of an authentic and meaningful parliament, the more open media, the greater accountability of public officials, and the general relaxation of government controls on personal and public dynamics mark the start of a process that will see Jordan transformed into a more healthy, productive and humane country. I expect that in the 1990s, Jordan should be one of a handful of countries in transition around the world that will set the standard in domestic political evolution and pluralism — in other words, in wholesome and rational nation-building.

The Jordan that starts the 1990s is very different from the one that ended the 1980s. Those who may not like the national metamorphosis I have outlined above would do well to appreciate that it is better to have a smaller country with a more modest role that one fulfils with distinction, than an exaggerated sense of national capability that can only lead to regression, frustration and failure. All in all, this is a better, more rational and more realistic country, and one that should continue to generate pride in the 1990s, rather than the confusion and angst of the late 1980s.



Mandela release takes Pretoria past point of no return

By Andrew Steele
Reuters

CAPE TOWN — The release of Nelson Mandela is a high-stakes gamble by President F.W. de Klerk for a double payout — giving voteless blacks a say in government while assuring the rights of South Africa's white minority.

"We must view this as an important boost in moving our country towards negotiation. One of the major conditions of the anti-apartheid movement has been fulfilled," said professor John Barrett of Johannesburg's Witwatersrand University.

"If the ANC pulls back from negotiations now, it will damage the image of the anti-apartheid movement. The process must go forward," said Barrett, political scientist with Witwatersrand, Institute of International Affairs.

The release of the African National Congress (ANC) leader after 27 years behind bars ensures that, after only five months in office, de Klerk has done more to resolve the apartheid deadlock than predecessor P.W. Botha did in over a decade.

Botha destroyed any vestige of a reformist image in 1985 during a keynote address, dubbed the "Rubicon speech," in which he warned the world not to push South Africa too far.

This, at a time when all had high hopes of political change, caused economic chaos with the rand plunging to record lows and creditor banks freezing loan repayments.

A few months later, national emergency rule was imposed and a massive anti-apartheid revolt, which was to last for three years, erupted in black townships.

"This time, the government sees itself as having crossed the Rubicon. But whether or not they have depends on the reaction of the forces on the other side — the anti-apartheid movement," said political analyst Mike Hough.

Hough, of the University of Pretoria, said neither the government nor anti-apartheid leaders

were likely to halt the political momentum created by Mandela's freedom and the release without restrictions last October of seven of his comrades.

Barrett said a lot was riding on the reaction of the anti-apartheid movement to the long-awaited liberation of the world's most famous political prisoner.

"Much will depend on the part Mandela will play, how he will assert himself as a leader after having had the benefit of such a great symbolic role," he said.

The Mass Democratic Movement (MDM), which groups most anti-apartheid organisations, has a fluid and often cumbersome leadership which has made it difficult for the MDM to respond quickly to de Klerk's rapid-fire reform programme.

If Mandela manages to crystallise an effective leadership, readily identified abroad, the anti-Pretoria forces may be better able to offer a cohesive reaction to de Klerk, analysts said.

Barrett added that Mandela's freedom would help the cause of Western leaders like British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who oppose economic sanctions on the grounds that such measures have not brought an end to apartheid.

Thatcher, one of Pretoria's mildest critics, is hotly tipped to be the first major Western leader to visit South Africa after Mandela's release and a visit as early as Easter is possible, Western diplomats say.

Analysts question whether Pretoria can contain the emotional outburst among blacks expected following the release of a man who has become virtually mythical in stature.

Max Coleman, a veteran anti-apartheid campaigner who headed a group monitoring demonstrations without trial, until it was banned by Pretoria, forecasts a huge outpouring of emotion that could become explosive.

"(Pretoria's) problem is to show that it is moving forward and at the same time maintain control," Coleman said.

By Nisha Starcevic
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, West Germany — In Eastern Europe ideology has once again come face-to-face with hard reality. Making a revolution is often easier than fulfilling its goals.

After overthrowing four decades of rigid Communist rule, the people of Eastern Europe are facing enormous problems.

The years of centrally planned systems and Communist mismanagement have left East European economies in such ruins that a lot of help from the West and plenty of sacrifices of their own will be necessary before the countries can stand on their own.

While the problems are gigantic and many people are pessimistic, the pro-democracy drive received a tremendous boost when Communist leaders in the Soviet Union endorsed President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's proposal that the party give up its monopoly on power.

The decision closed a circle that began with Gorbachev's reform policies of glasnost and perestroika, allowing East European countries to go their own way.

But it will take years before their economies are sound and competitive. During the adjustment to a free-market system, the governments will have to deal with unemployment, bankruptcies, inflation and massive debts, even an atrophied work ethic.

Experts say the environmental problems in several East European countries are bordering on catastrophe and will take years and billions of dollars to clean up. An accelerating exodus of skilled workers averaging about 1,800 a day, strikes, and absenteeism are driving East Germany to the brink of economic collapse.

More than 400,000 East Germans have resettled in West Germany in a year. West Germany, struggling to cope with the rate of new arrivals, has been forced to step in to try to bail out the faltering neighbour with infusion of aid and plans for a quick monetary union. Unification may come faster than anyone anticipated.

Poland owes \$40 billion to Western creditors, Hungary and Yugoslavia about \$20 billion each. Yugoslavia's inflation rate is more than 1,500 per cent annually.

Solidarity union leader Lech Walesa acknowledges the shock, therapy plan to tame the inflation and transform Poland into a free-market economy is painful and says it needs a lot of Western aid.

"We are like a car with four wheels running in different directions, moving fast but slipping backward. Nothing can be done from inside the car," Walesa told a reporter in Gdansk recently.

He said foreign aid and a promised investment treaty are essential.

"It is too slow and it is not working," he said. "This is why (reform plan) is blacker. We cannot rely on our

Eastern Europe's future holds hard times

old system within our own means. This is impossible without outside help."

Poland was the forerunner in the democratic transformation when it became the first East European country to get a non-Communist government. In 1990, many eyes will be on Poland again to see how much progress it makes towards economic recovery.

The plan, which went into effect on Jan. 1, decontrolled prices, foreign exchange and centrally allocated industrial inputs.

"The course of our reforms is giving stimulation to the changes in other countries of the region. The failure of the efforts could make more difficult the evolution occurring in central and Eastern Europe," Polish Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki told parliament on Jan. 10.

Yugoslavia's similar plan includes a six-month wage freeze, strict monetary controls, closing down of unprofitable companies and liberalised imports to provide more competition to domestic industries. The dinar was made convertible at a fixed rate to the West German mark.

Both Poland and Yugoslavia were advised on their programmes by Jeffrey Sachs, a professor of economics at Harvard University, one of the most prestigious colleges in the United States.

Although the wage freeze already has triggered a fresh wave of strikes in Yugoslavia, Sachs predicts the work stoppages will gradually cease as cheaper imports bring down domestic prices.

The political focus will be on free elections that are scheduled throughout the region this year. Also, Poland and Czechoslovakia have asked the Soviets to withdraw their troops, and Budapest has requested an accelerated pace of the pullout from Hungary.

Free parliamentary elections are scheduled in East Germany, Hungary, Romania and Czechoslovakia, and local elections in Poland are expected to be moved up to April.

In the Soviet Union, all 15 republics will hold local elections that will offer a choice of candidates. Bulgaria also is expected to hold free elections although the date has not been fixed.

In non-aligned Yugoslavia, the Communists are expected to compete with other groups in parliamentary elections that will be held in April.

Yugoslavia has fallen behind in the pace of political reforms

as the country stumbles towards the elections.

Ulrich Stockman, a leader of the Social Democratic Party, says it is hard to organise people politically after 40 years of apathy under Communist rule.

"People have felt lost, with all these new parties coming up, all the time," after decades of political unawareness, Stockman said.

But the East German parties are receiving extensive organisational and campaign aid from their West German counterparts and a poll in early February predicted the Social Democrats would win 54 per cent of the vote, with the Communists a distant second at 12 per cent.

Kristina Bokor, a 50-year-old Budapest manager, recently expressed some of the pessimism building in Hungary.

"The elections will be characterised by apathy," she said. "Most people are apathetic because there is no real motivation to get them to become involved."

"The country has no political culture. I do not expect any positive changes to come about in my lifetime. Not in that of the next generation," Mrs. Bokor said.

Edit Somlai, a 29-year-old Budapest teacher, said the country was moving towards democracy, "but unfortunately it won't bring a better economic situation in our lifetime."

Unlike Poland or Czechoslovakia, East Germany's pro-democracy movement lacks charismatic leaders that could unite the mushrooming groups. In Hungary, opposition groups also are bickering, weakening their election prospects.

But a democratically elected government in East Germany can count on West German aid to prop up its economy.

For all the problems facing Eastern Europe, they pale in comparison with those confronting Gorbachev.

Perestroika, his policy of economic restructuring, and glasnost, his policy of openness, have been a huge success for Gorbachev's image abroad. But at home, the stores are still empty.

Food rationing continues in most parts of the vast country, with monthly ceilings on the amounts of tea, meat, sugar, matches and other staples that Soviets can buy.

Party conservatives fought Gorbachev's proposal for abandoning the Communists' constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on power and opening the way for a multi-party system.

The 28th national party congress has been moved up from October to June and the Communists' future role is likely to be its major topic.

In the local elections, Soviet voters will be able to choose between several candidates. Voters in many areas are expected to reject Communist candidates in favour of nationalists, populists and maverick Communists not backed by the local party chiefs.

Cairo's Nile boatmen a vanishing breed

By John Fullerton
Reporter

CAIRO — Poorly paid, pushed out by property developers and cramped in government red tape, Nile boatmen are a rapidly vanishing breed.

For generations their elegant triangular sail feluccas have skimmed across the broad river from moorings in the centre of the Egyptian capital, ferrying passengers and cargo.

Today a striding fleet provides Egyptian and foreign tourists with a tranquil respite from the roar and fumes of the Cairo traffic and offers an inexpensive alternative to the more prosaic forms of urban entertainment.

But time is running out, and the number of these distinctive boats and their available moorings is dwindling.

Mohammad Ali Hussein, 75, owns eight feluccas and four motorboats tied up at primitive wooden jetties opposite a five-star hotel in downtown Cairo.

His father and grandfather were in the business, and at the age of seven he was taken away from school to learn the trade.

"My sons have a better living. One is an electrician working in a smart hotel and the other has a taxi," said Hussein, who supplements his boatmen's income by selling sweets and cigarettes to office workers from a pavement stall.

Declining income

At the height of summer when tourists queue for boats to escape the stifling heat, Hussein's little fleet can bring in around 700 Egyptian pounds (\$270) a week.

The owner takes half, out of which he must pay tax and rent for the moorings as well as annual registration fees for the boats themselves. The other half is split among his boatmen.

"We are becoming extinct," said Abdul Moneim Hussein. He has worked the Nile for 40 years and remembers when one could see the pyramids before riverbank high-rise buildings blocked the view.

Five years ago, the authorities began to take an interest in the

felucca business, racing owners to register their boats, pay rent for moorings as well as submit tax returns.

Then, there were eight or nine places where boats could be found for hire in central Cairo. Only four remain.

Land was becoming scarce. Access to the river was becoming more difficult as hotels, luxury villas and apartment blocks proliferated along the water's edge.

The paraphernalia of modern tourism — from revolving restaurants and casinos to high-speed skiffs — was diverting income from the flat-bottomed eight-metre feluccas and their rustic crews clad in billowing robes.

Hussein said many visitors to Egypt preferred to spend \$30 to dine in an air-conditioned floating restaurant run by tourists hotels than pay \$4 to spend an hour to picnic in an open boat at the mercy of the wind.

Rising costs

Two-week trip to Aswan and Luxor were a dim and distant memory for Hussein. He said it was 10 years since tourists had hired any boat of his for the trip.

Today, package tourists prefer to visit Aswan, some 900 kilometres south, by air — a one hour, 20 minute flight costing about 80 Egyptian pounds (\$30) one way.

"It would take two weeks to reach Aswan and cost about 3,000 pounds (\$1,160) to hire the boat. When I started it cost twelve pounds for the journey."

The brightly painted feluccas can take eight comfortably on cushioned seats, shielded from the sun by canopies. Passengers bring their own meals or order from riverside restaurants.

Would Hussein recommend the river as a trade?

"It's too irregular. It is subject to too many things — the weather, the number and changing tastes of tourists, official rules and regulations and you also have to put in a 12 or 14-hour day to make ends meet," he said.

"I want my children to be doctors or engineers."

Smog — how cars and coal choke European cities

By Paul Majendie
Reporter

DUBLIN — Smog blanketing Dublin became so thick that midday looked more like midnight on its gloomy streets.

In Athens, a filthy brown cloud hovers almost daily over the ancient city, sending the elderly to hospitals in droves.

In Milan, the mayor banned lorries, urged motorists to abandon their cars and told people to turn down their heating.

Across the heavily industrialised and densely populated countries of Western Europe, cars and coal are the main cause of the smog poisoning the air.

But their problems pale in comparison with the environmental headaches of Eastern Europe, shaking off Communism and battling to establish market-oriented economies but facing colossal pollution problems that have been ignored for years.

A one-hour stroll in Budapest is said to be as bad for your lungs as a pack of cigarettes. Broadcasts regularly warn against taking children outdoors during winter smogs.

In the grimy East German city of Bitterfeld, the air is so bad that schoolchildren are sent to a Baltic resort for a month every year to breathe freely again.

Prague's Hradcany castle gives a panoramic view of the heavy smog floating over the Czechoslovakian capital on all but the windiest of days.

In the medieval Polish city of Krakow, the faces on the ancient sandstone statues have crumbled away amid the fumes from a giant steel mill.

Pollution knows no frontiers and the problem, as a Reuter survey across the capitals of Europe showed, is finding enough money combined with enough political will to eradicate the choking clouds poisoning millions of people.

Rainer Frommann, environmental commissioner in Bitterfeld, put the case succinctly for Eastern Europe when reviewing controls at its antiquated plants.

"Trying to put a Western anti-pollution device on these factories would be like putting a gold watch on the wrist of a corpse," he said.

The main smog culprit on Hungarian streets is its ageing stock of East Bloc cars which on average are about nine years old. Spreading the use of lead-free petrol and introducing catalytic converters appear to have been shelved for lack of resources.

Kracow is on a United Nations list of treasures of humanity's heritage. Local authorities have ordered the steel mill there to reduce its production by a third but that could take years.

Pollution has fallen by 20 per cent in Warsaw since Jan. 1 when the government doubled the price of petrol, forcing many drivers to use public transport.

West European governments have also had to take drastic

measures to curb the excesses of affluent car owners.

When Milan Paolo Pillitteri introduced an experimental Sunday ban on all cars, pollution was cut by a third and citizens took to the streets on skateboards, horses and bicycles.

Car fumes and industrial emissions trapped within the ring of hills surrounding Athens forced the government to take emergency measures — banning private cars from the city centre, closing schools and cutting industrial fuel consumption by half.

Athens wants to host the 1996 Olympics. A Soviet marathon runner competing in the European championships there gave his verdict: "My lungs hurt. It is a crime that races take place in such a dirty atmosphere."

Ireland has pledged to make environment a top priority during its current six-month presidency of the European Community.

Environment Minister Padraig Flynn matched the promise with a one billion punt (\$1.5 billion) package of measures to clean up the "emerald isle."

He banned smoky coal in smog-ridden Dublin where the 320,000 open coal fires have been the prime culprits in filling emergency wards with elderly people suffering from respiratory complaints.

The smogs of Victorian London and the "pea-soupers" that killed up to 4,000 people in 1952 have been swept away by draconian clean air acts. Now the car is

the main culprit.

A British study found nine out of 10 drivers favoured making catalytic converters compulsory. But only half said they would be willing to pay £100 (\$160) extra for the device which converts toxic exhaust emissions into less harmful substances.

The Netherlands and West Germany cut motoring taxes for drivers who switched to catalytic converters. The West German carmaker Audi now makes them standard equipment on all its models.

The Swedes pride themselves on having pollution levels way below those of most European cities. All cars made in 1989 or later must be equipped with catalytic converters.

Copenhagen is proud of its name as a cyclists' city and nearly one third of its people bike to work. Ever keen to be cleaner and greener, some city councillors want to charge a fee for cars entering the city centre.

Some Madrid taxi drivers wear gas masks in the city's clogged traffic jams and the municipality plans a police "green patrol" to step up a crackdown on pollution offenders.



This file photo shows three Athenians wearing black-painted faces and breathing mask during a demonstration in May last year against air pollution in the Greek capital, Athens. Milan and Rome are reported to be the top 'culprits' in the gallery of polluters.

European Community officials single out Dublin, Rome, Milan, Genoa and Athens for its rogue's gallery of polluters.

Under EC legislation, the 12 states have until April 1993 to clean up the community's environmental black spots and keep their air within acceptable pollution safety limits.

Monitoring should also be improved with the proposed setting up of a European environment agency — but its final site and the extent of its role has not yet been decided.

With fledgling East European democracies viewing the environment as more of a priority than before, cooperation undreamed of only months before is now becoming feasible.

East Germany has, for one, confessed to a horrifying catalogue of ecological sins and pledged to be rid of its image as the "cesspit of Europe."

Heralding what could be the start of a decade when Europeans get together to clean up their air, Deputy Heavy Industry Minister Karl-Hermann Steinberg said: "We want to create a clean room in the European house."

U.S. students experiment on space-stored tomato seeds

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — Students, not scientists, will harvest whatever discoveries are yielded by 12.5 million tomato seeds the space shuttle Columbia returned to earth aboard the rescued long duration exposure facility (LDEF) satellite.

The seeds contributed by Park Seed Co. were sent into space in 1984 aboard the LDEF, a 9,694-kilogramme satellite intended to study how materials, systems and products withstand long exposure to conditions in space.

The satellite was to have been retrieved after 10 months, but scheduling problems and the 1986 Challenger disaster delayed retrieval.

"You can imagine that the scientific community would like to get their hands on the material,"

said Jim Alston, Park's research director. Instead, it will package the surviving seeds into 150,000 experiment kits for schools. "We don't want professional scientists pre-empting what the kids will find."

Researchers expect some mutations, Alston said, but "we really don't know what to expect as results. The question always comes up, 'are we going to have killer tomatoes or anything like that?' No, that's not going to happen."

There's 12.5 million seeds there can be any number of mutations. There's also the possibility a very desirable plant or characteristic will pop up that can be developed for a commercial release, or a new tomato type or something."

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Aluminium fever grips Gulf Arab countries

DUBAI (R) — Gulf oil states are in a rush to transform their cheap and plentiful gas supplies into aluminium, encouraged by the export success of profitable smelters in Bahrain and Dubai.

Every country around the Gulf, with the exception of Kuwait, now has plans to build an aluminium smelter, and if all are realised, regional output will jump five times to 1.5 million tonnes per year by 1995.

Gulf industry analysts still forecast a bright future with no glut developing, as long as conditions turn out as expected, and because some smelters may not develop as quickly as the planners might like.

"World demand is growing by two to three per cent every year, there is still room for more (aluminium) smelters, unless there is a major recession in the West," one Gulf aluminium industry executive said.

Gulf industrialists also pin their hopes on rising costs of producing aluminium in the Western industrial countries and say the Gulf's comparative advantage lies in cheap supplies of natural gas to power the plants.

Six Gulf states — Iran, Iraq,

the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain — own around 27 per cent of the world's natural gas reserves.

Latest contenders in this race to build aluminium smelters are Iran and Iraq — still trying to reconstruct their economies since a ceasefire in August, 1988, halted the Gulf war.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar's smelter projects are still on the drawing board. Dubai and Bahrain have already started capacity expansion schemes at their existing smelters.

Gulf analysts said world supply and demand are balanced around just below 15 million tonnes per year, but prices have fallen to around \$1,450 per tonne from their 1988 peak of \$4,200.

The cost of alumina, the raw material for the metal which must be shipped to the Gulf, has risen four times to \$400 per tonne in four years, which shrank profit margins. But this has not discouraged the Gulf states from pursuing smelter plans.

Iraq and Dubai-based International Development Corporation (IDC) announced last Friday a 220,000-tonne a year joint-venture smelter to be built at Iran's

southern Gulf port of Bandar Abbas at a cost of \$1.35 billion within three years.

Iraq is also planning to build a 215,000-tonnes per year capacity smelter and French firm Pechiney will design the plant to be completed in three years, an Iraqi newspaper said.

"Iran and Iraq have the necessary conditions to make a smelter project feasible, a lot of natural gas, big domestic markets, and both need employment and growth," a Gulf-based industry analyst said.

But while Iran could finance the smelter with its joint venture with IDC, Iraq may not find funds for the smelter as it has other pressing projects which take priority.

Saudi Arabia is planning a 214,000-tonne smelter at Yanbu and has the added advantage of domestic bauxite reserves which could be processed into alumina.

"Saudi Arabia's private sector aluminium project has two basic problems, they still have no gas supply commitment from the government, and financial support is also not there," said one industry analyst.

Qatar's plans to use its vast



Transferring molten metal in the pot-room at AlBa

natural gas supplies in a 193,000 tonnes capacity smelter may have hit a snag because British firm Davy McKee, which has a memorandum of understanding to build the smelter, has no yet reached an agreement with the

Qatari government on the price of gas, the analysts said.

Davy McKee was to build the \$1.2 billion plant with 100 per cent foreign equity and Qatar was to supply the gas, they said.

Meanwhile, Aluminium

Bahrain BSC (Alba) and Dubai Aluminium (Dubal) have schemes to build up to 400,000 tonnes per year and 235,000-tonnes from a scheduled 205,000-tonnes expansion and 135,000-tonnes respectively.

Kuwait wants quick end to OPEC quotas

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Kuwait's oil minister says the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should scrap its production quota system "as soon as possible," the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) weekly reported Monday.

The Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter quoted Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah as saying in an interview with editor Ian Seymour: "From a practical standpoint, the quotas are already irrelevant, so all that's needed is a recognition of that fact."

OPEC's quota system is designed to stabilise production and maintain oil prices around the 13-member group's benchmark of \$18 a barrel.

But Kuwait and other OPEC members have for months been producing far above their quotas, stirring divisions within the group.

The Paris-based International Energy Agency reported this month that OPEC's output in January was 23.3 million barrels a day, well over the overall quota of 22.086 million barrels a day set for the first half of the year.

However, the agency noted that the January total was about 700,000 barrels a day above the December figure, mainly due to lower production by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Sabah acknowledged that Kuwait, one of the most persistent quota violators, is producing well above its quota of 1.5 million barrels a day.

He declined to give any figure. But industry experts have estimated Kuwaiti output at between 1.8 million and two million barrels a day.

Sabah said that the quota system "has hardly been honoured by anybody. Any country that was capable of exceeding its quota did so."

He said it has lost its relevance because the demand for oil, particularly OPEC crude, is growing faster than expected "to the extent that only very few countries have excess production capacity still to be utilised."

Sabah said Kuwait is driving to boost its current production capacity of 2.5 million barrels a day, but did not specify any target level.

Several OPEC ministers said at the group's last meeting in Vienna in November that there would probably be no need for a quota system in the next year or two.

Sabah told MEES: "The end of quotas should perhaps be faster than that."

Questioning the need for quotas, he asked: "What's the ultimate objective? If it's division of quotas in line with fixed percentages, this is a ridiculous exercise. If it's maintenance of prices, then I think that those producers which have spare production capacity at their disposal can indicate that if the average price goes below the agreed price of \$18 a barrel, they'll get together and see what they can do to reduce their own production and, to a lesser degree, the production of others."

But he added: "Maintaining the pretence of the quota system serves to undermine the market from a psychological point of view. What I'm saying is that we face a problem... removing the quota system would likely have a

In protest at state bureaucracy Algerian bosses strike

ORAN (R) — Thousands of company bosses went on strike in western Algeria Monday, shutting offices and factories and sending workers home for a third day in a massive protest at state bureaucracy.

Virtually all the region's 7,000 private firms and factories employing tens of thousands of workers closed, in anger at mismanagement of state monopolies, Ahmad Bensadoun, president of Oran's chamber of commerce, said.

Bensadoun told Reuters most companies shut their doors Saturday and had kept workers away from machinery and tools since then. Shops in Oran, Algeria's second largest city, and in towns in 11 surrounding provinces pulled down shutters in a two-day sympathy strike, reopening Monday.

According to the private firms, the bureaucrats are blocking economic reforms designed to end state trading monopolies and en-

courage competition.

"We are demanding the removal of monopolies," Bensadoun told Reuters. "We no longer want to be under the tutelage of any state monopoly or office."

Private factories, like those run by the state, operate well below capacity because of shortages of raw materials and spare parts and Bensadoun blamed mismanagement in state trading monopolies and the country's hard currency crisis, which curbs non-essential imports.

The private sector had to buy through the state, often on uncompetitive terms, even though monopolies were no longer supposed to exist, he said.

"We are demanding direct access to national and international suppliers for all sectors," Bensadoun said.

Western Algeria is a stronghold of the private sector, long overshadowed by socialist central planning adopted in the

1960s.

President Chadli Benjedid launched reforms in the mid-1980s to spur public sector productivity, introducing competition, market mechanisms and management autonomy.

But a leaflet distributed by the chamber said reforms were being sabotaged. "The country is in danger, stifled by bureaucracy which is leading to bankruptcy."

The strike coincides with a growing movement of businessmen nationwide to push for faster economic reform and promote individual enterprise.

Hundreds of entrepreneurs, mainly from the private sector, are to meet in Algiers Wednesday to discuss forming a national employers' association to represent them in talks with workers and the government.

Roh urges South Koreans to hold back wage demands

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-woo has urged the nation to scale down wage demands and work to enhance a stagnant economy so that South Korea can join the ranks of the world's top economic powers by the end of this century.

"Our only choice is to achieve steady economic development in a new, democratic order," Roh told a news conference, explaining the economic difficulty being faced by South Korea.

South Korea's 1989 economic performance was "not so bad" by international standards, but the country faced an alarm signal with its industrial competitiveness structurally weakened, Roh said.

The Korean economy grew 6.5 per cent in real terms last year with inflation held to 5.1 per cent and exports reaching \$62.3 billion to produce a current

account surplus of \$5.1 billion, he said.

Roh devoted much of his 40-minute speech to explaining the economic difficulty being faced by South Korea and urged his 42 million people, rich and poor alike, to cooperate to overcome the challenges.

The president said if South Korea can overcome its present economic plight, it would achieve advanced nation status by the year 2000 with exports reaching \$200 billion and per capita income topping \$15,000.

Korea's 1989 per capita income was estimated at \$4,800.

Roh said South Korea's economic difficulties have been caused by internal problems rather than external factors. He cited widespread labour strikes that hit South Korea during the past two

years, reducing production and exports.

"Such a grim state of affairs has been caused by a declining morale and work ethic on the part of workers, businessmen and other major economic actors," he said.

South Korea has been hit by a wave of violent labour protests since the inauguration of the Roh government in 1988 and many large export industries were forced to shut down temporarily as labourers demanded higher pay.

"We must not commit the folly of destroying our own hands the springboard that we have built with sweat and tears over the past three decades with the intention of catapulting ourselves into the ranks of advanced nations," Roh said.

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Monday, February 12, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell	
Pound Sterling	699.0	685.0	
Deutschemark	1116.6	1127.3	
Swiss franc	441.4	445.8	
French franc			116.2
Japanese yen (for 100)			117.4
Dutch guilder			45.2
Swedish crown			33.4
Italian lira (for 100)			109.1
Belgian franc (for 10)			33.2
			189.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.6970/80	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.2020/35	Canadian dollar	
	1.6725/32	Deutschemark	
	1.8855/85	Dutch guilders	
	1.4975/85	Swiss francs	
	34.9935/04	Belgian francs	
	5.6900/50	French francs	
	1243/1245	Italian lire	
	144.32/42	Japanese yen	
	6.0900/1300	Swedish crowns	
	6.4500/50	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4615/65	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	414.90/415.30	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed lower on concern about the high debt of several companies. The All Ordinaries index fell 7.2 to 1,623.5.

TOKYO — Closed for holiday

HONG KONG — Prices were slightly firmer at the close after selective buying. The Hang Seng Index rose 0.76 to 2,894.66.

SINGAPORE — The market closed firmer in moderate trading on selective buying of locally-based blue chips and finance stocks. Heavy gains in some stocks pushed the Straits Times Index to a closing record high of 1,593.77, up 12.25.

BOMBAY — Share prices rebounded from a two-week slide to finish broadly higher on hectic short covering anticipating a revival in institutional demand.

FRANKFURT — Shares fell sharply in moderate trade amid continuing worries about the bond market but scattered buy orders helped prices recover from mid-session lows. The DAX plunged 23.50 to 1,860.39.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed generally lower but above their day's lows in very dull trading. Investors stayed away because of high interest rates. The SPI Index lost 6.9 to 1,120.2.

PARIS — Prices posted steep falls on concern about the costs of withdrawal of U.S. stocks by Parier after benzene was found in its bottles.

LONDON — Shares fell sharply in late trading, hit by a 20 point fall on Wall Street as fears of higher West German interest rates accompanied rumours of financial problems at a major U.S. brokerage house. By 1615 GMT the FTSE was down 31 points at 2,282.6.

NEW YORK — Rumours of problems at a major U.S. brokerage house and futures-related sell programme pushed stocks down. By 1625 the DOW was 20 points down at 2,628.

China seeks \$2b Japanese loan

TOKYO (AP) — China has asked Japanese banks for \$2 billion in standby credits under an agreement signed in 1985, banking officials have said.

It was the first time China has called for a loan under the agreement.

The move appeared to indicate that China has been squeezed for funds by Western economic sanctions imposed last June, after a bloody crackdown on a pro-democracy movement in China.

The Chinese request, made recently, came seven months before

the bilateral loan agreement, signed in July 1985 between a group of 67 Japanese banks and the Bank of China, will expire in July, an official of a major Japanese bank said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

Under the agreement, a maximum amount of \$2 billion would be extended to China with a repayment period of 10 years, the official said.

The Asahi Shimbun newspaper said the request shows the worsening situation of foreign reserves in China as a result of

Western sanctions, which included a halt to most lending.

Chinese Premier Li Peng announced Wednesday the lifting of Beijing's seven-month-old state of martial law. The action has been seen as a step to ease foreign criticism of China's crackdown on dissent and persuade the World Bank and industrialised countries to restore badly needed loans.

The Japanese bank official said concrete steps implementing the loan contract are expected to be made after a group of Japanese bankers visits China in March to examine economic conditions.

Last week, the Federation of Bankers' Associations of Japan said it will send senior officers from 27 commercial banks to China on March 1 to assess economic conditions and exchange views on investment and other issues.

The mission will be the first of its kind since Japan suspended

loans, including a five-year package of \$10 billion yen (\$5.6 billion) in loans from the Japanese government.

The Asahi said China's foreign reserves, which were \$18 billion in 1988, dipped to \$14.18 billion at the end of last September, according to the latest statistics available by the People's Bank of China, China's central bank.

Meanwhile, China's industrial output rose 6.8 per cent in 1989 compared to the previous year, a sharp decline from the 17.7 per cent growth registered in 1988.

The State Statistical Bureau, quoted by Chinese dailies, said industrial production reached 1,296 trillion yuan (\$276 billion) last year.

The decline in growth was attributed to a tough austerity policy inaugurated in September 1988 that began taking a serious toll on the economy in the second half of 1989.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

"If we could start over, I wouldn't change a thing. Except your body, face, job and personality."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUXEE

CARPH

LARCOR

NARFIA

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " " " " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ALTAR HOIST FLURRY PLAGUE

Answer: Why he was so popular in jail — HE WAS THE "LIFE" OF THE PARTY

Peanuts

EACH FAMILY HAS A CHAIN OF COMMAND, AND DO YOU KNOW WHO'S THE LOWEST ON THAT CHAIN? GUESS!

IT'S THE DOG! THE DOG IS THE LOWEST! DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

I SAID DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

THEY HATE IT WHEN YOU JUST STARE AT 'EM LIKE THIS.

Mutt'n' Jeff

WHAT'S WRONG, JEFF? YOU LOOK LIKE THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER!

THINGS ARE TERRIBLE! I'M SICK OF LIVING!

I FINALLY ASKED MY GIRL TO MARRY ME!

--AND SHE REFUSED!

CHEER UP, JEFF! A WOMAN'S NO OFTEN MEANS YES!

THIS ONE DIDN'T SAY NO? SHE SAID "PHOOEY!"

Andy Capp

DON'T RETALIATE, PERCY. YOU'RE CONCUSED. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

YOU'RE RIGHT, FLO.

IF I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING, I COULDN'T DO IT.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

AC Milan ousts Napoli from top

Reuters

EUROPEAN champions AC Milan have returned to the top of the Italian first division for the first time in almost two years by ousting Diego Maradona's Napoli with a 3-0 hammering.

The team, dubbed "atomic Milan" by fans after their dazzling performance at home Sunday, took over the league leadership for the first time since May 1988 on goal difference.

Milan's Dutch international Marco van Basten, who scored the third goal with a graceful diving header, was as cool as ever after the match.

"Napoli played well, but Milan played better — I missed a few opportunities," said van Basten.

"Now we've got to keep our feet on the ground. We've still got another 10 Sundays to go before the end of the championship. Anything can happen," said van Basten, European footballer of the year twice in succession.

The warmest praise for Milan, however, came from Napoli captain Maradona, who gave a lacklustre performance.

"They're a beautiful team, they play really exceptional soccer, they deserved to win. They never let us out of our half," said the Argentine World Cup captain.

Not that Maradona was ready to give in as Milan and Napoli, both four points clear of the rest of the pack with 36 points, prepare to fight the championship out between themselves.

"There's no need to be scared. We've got the same number of points. The battle's thrown open, nobody's excluded," said Maradona.

Napoli have an early opportunity for revenge when the sides meet for the third time in two weeks in the second leg semi-final of the Italian Cup Wednesday after a draw goalless draw in the first leg.

Champions Internazionale and Sampdoria, joint third, both drew Sunday.

Defending Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven returned to form with a 6-0 thrashing of lowly NEC Nijmegen after losing heavily last week.

PSV, racked with rivalry among their abundant stable of top players, appeared to have put team wranglings behind them with the return of some of the more disenchanted players including Danish defender Ivan Nielsen.

Victory left them two points clear at the top of the table with a game in hand over nearest challengers Vitesse and Roda JC.

Ajax, who slipped to fifth after losing 1-0 to mid-table MVV Maastricht, are four points behind PSV but with a game in hand and an opportunity to close the gap when the two sides meet next week.

In France, Jean-Pierre Papin struck twice in the first 15 minutes for last year's double winners Marseille to lead his team to a 4-1 win over Racing Paris and take his personal tally in the league to 19, seven more than anyone else.

Papin, leading scorer in each of the past two seasons, has set himself some demanding targets. "I would love to reach 30," he said. "Perhaps I'll do it but my real aim is to catch Bordeaux."

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Tyson cheated himself in loss to Douglas

By John Phillips
Reporter

NEW YORK — Mike Tyson was expected by many to self-destruct and lose the heavyweight title some day, but few thought it would be against the likes of James "Buster" Douglas.

It's true that Douglas out-boxed and out-hit the former champion for 10 rounds before knocking out the man who had been the youngest heavyweight titleholder in history. But Tyson's catatonic performance was so alien to his nature in the ring, so opposed to his warrior self-image, that it had all the earmarks of quiet self-destruction.

Tyson rarely feigned, slipped punches or used his normally fast footwork to get a good angle to counter Douglas's punishing jab which by the end of the fight had closed Tyson's left eye.

Douglas probably fought the best fight of his life and Tyson his worst. Besides absorbing a beating, Tyson's first loss was particularly humiliating.

Down for the first time, he wasted precious seconds trying to shove his mouthpiece into his mouth with his red boxing glove. He was counted out with it hanging over his hip.

Tyson's performance only supported the claim by Kevin Rooney, his former manager, that Tyson, 23, and undefeated before Sunday, "didn't come to fight, he didn't want to fight."

For a man like Tyson, who has said his entire life is fighting, that may be the worst thing that can be said about him.

How will Tyson, the street-thug turned boxer, turned heavyweight champion, react to losing the crown that has long been the measure of machismo, the ultimate prize a man can earn in sport?

He was the money to react in just about any fashion he wants. And a string of scrapes and self-destructive behaviour makes it seem he almost delights in it.

Those scrapes — including a bad marriage to an actress that produced enough raging jealousy for any 10 adolescents, an early-morning brawl on a Harlem street, and smashing his car into a tree that prompted tabloid speculation of attempted suicide — proved his self-destructive tendencies.

But on the other hand, Tyson is not just the one-dimensional, lethal weapon that is the popular image of most fighters.

He is one of the brightest fighters around, but often tries to hide his intelligence and seems to delight in hanging onto the dress and language of the streets.

He could play many roles, but always — until Sunday against Douglas — he was a tiger in the ring, pure aggression intent on hurting his opponent. He once said he punches people with the intention of pushing the nose bone into their skull. He said he carried Tyrrell Biggs for five rounds so he could punish him.

"He squealed like a woman when I hit him," Tyson said after finally despatching his boyhood enemy.

It was interesting to see Tyson a couple of years ago when late-manager Jim Jacobs was still his main influence.

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It was interesting to see Tyson a couple of years ago when late-manager Jim Jacobs was still his main influence.

Jacobs, a well-educated man not shy about displaying his breeding whenever possible, would use terms like "he's a darling man"... "I dearly love to..."

Tyson, a reform school graduate, would sop up Jacobs's mannerisms like a sponge, mimicking Jacobs's ivy league phrasing with the likes of "I dearly love to fight."

At mandatory news conferences used to hype a fight, a visibly-bored Tyson often would place his head on Jacob's shoulder. Jacobs died of leukaemia in 1988.

But Tyson was not just a mimic. If he were interested in a subject he could be eloquent. He is an encyclopedia of boxing, with insights few people have into boxers. And when he talks about the pigeons he used to own when he was a teen-aged street mugger in Brooklyn, he reveals a startling softness.

First with the death of his first trainer and father-figure Cus D'Amato in 1985 and then Jacobs, Tyson was left to fend for himself in the mine-field of big-time boxing. He did not always make the right moves.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day you will feel tied down to preparations from the past but you will be getting rid of a multitude of chores. Good evening to be social and circulate.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) See friends who have been away for a while but are back in your circle again. Getting involved with a woman can aid your financial security.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take a couple of friends to a good restaurant for some social pleasure for all. Let your mate be more aware of the plans you have for the two of you today.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Put more resourcefulness into your regular routines at this time. A new source of income can become yours at this time by an unusual idea.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 22) It's vitally necessary that you develop a more cooperative attitude at home. Don't allow too much emotionality to upset your attachment.

LEO: (July 23 to August 21) Younger couples will be your best mode of social expression now. Try to get out in the world of activity more with your mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A good day for any improvements you want to make at your residence. Do not allow yourself to feel tied down to your attachment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be social today as you will be able to have a very good time. Do all the things with your attachment.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HUSCH
1988 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ QJ65 ♣ Q962 ♦ J72
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ Q73 ♣ 9872 ♦ J8652 ♣ 45
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K5 ♣ A103 ♦ AQ9642 ♣ K3
What is your opening bid?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ Q106 ♣ J752 ♦ K10 ♣ K984

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 NT Pass
? What do you bid now?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A7652 ♣ J ♦ KQ43 ♣ A7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 NT Pass
? What do you bid now?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A7652 ♣ AKJ83 ♦ A74 ♣ Void
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 NT Pass
? What action do you take?

THE Daily Crossword

by C.F. Murray

ACROSS
1. A partner
2. European
3. A pay raise for short
4. Molting
5. Helicopter part
6. Easter native
7. Palm tree
8. Desperate
9. Striped
10. Put aside
11. Fr. Matron
12. Petition for redress
13. Gushes forth
14. Some windows
15. Secured
16. Lang.
17. Cross type
18. Rallied
19. Tool for dressing
20. South
21. Prongs
22. Fossil resin
23. Yokels
24. Part of a will
25. Great brand
26. On the — (not working)
27. Spoken
28. Small change
29. Kill parts in a way
30. A Turner
31. Bulbar
32. Tabula
33. Profit writer
34. Mortician
35. Some are fine
36. Desires
37. Marx and Perkin
38. Check copy
39. DOWN
1. Low interest
2. "Road Play"
3. Abrupt withdrawal

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ANZ Grindlays Bank
P.O. Box 9997
Amman.

ANZ GRINDLAYS IN JORDAN
ANZ WORLDWIDE

East beats West in All-Star game

MIAMI (R) — The East, behind a balanced attack and a more dedicated defence, routed the stars from the West 130-113 Sunday in the National Basketball Association's All-Star game.

High scorers for the East, which increased their lead in the All-Star series to 26-14, were high-flying leapers Michael "Air" Jordan and Charles Barkley, who both posted 17 points.

Earvin "Magic" Johnson led the West with 22 points and captured the game's Most Valuable Player (MVP) award for the first time in his illustrious career.

"I never thought I would win MVP, so many great players have been in this game," said Magic, the longtime backcourt leader of the Los Angeles Lakers, who was the first MVP named from a losing team since Julius "Dr. J" Erving in 1977.

"I just came here to give the fans a good show. For me to win (MVP) is a dream come true," Jordan said. "He (Magic) deserved it, but we won the game and that's what counts."

The East dominated the West in the first quarter leading 40-23 with Jordan and Dominique Wilkins both scoring seven points. Magic put nine points up for the West.

The West rallied in the second quarter and cut the margin to 65-52 at the half.

Larry Bird asserted himself in the third quarter with eight points to help the East regain a 17-point lead, 100-83.

One last rally brought the West to within nine with 3:22 to go when Lafayette "Fat" Lever hit a layup off a pass from Magic, making the score 116-107.

But then centre Pat Ewing tipped in a rebound and Barkley hit a hook. Bird stole the ball from Clyde Drexler and passed to Isaiah Thomas who hit Jordan for a layup that clinched it.

One of the game's highlights came when Barkley, 1.98 metre, challenged towering centre Akeem "the Dream" Olajuwon, 2.13, and snuffed his shot leading to a fast-break basket.

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Cinema **NILJUM** Tel: 675571

Michel Kiton
star of Batman in
BEETLE JUICE

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Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 674111

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Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

LICENCE TO KILL

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

U.S. fails to respond to Soviet troop offer; East, West blocs split on German neutrality

OTTAWA (Agencies) — The United States has failed to make a recommendation to NATO allies on the latest Soviet troop cut offer and the Western alliance seemed a long way from taking a unified position on it.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers, in Canada for the 23-nation open skies conference, also appeared split on whether a unified Germany would become a NATO member or be neutral.

Each alliance, in separate meetings, discussed the fast-moving German unification and efforts to reach a conventional forces treaty in Europe, participants said. The two alliances then dined together.

In particular, the two sides discussed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's weekend proposal that the superpowers reduce their troops in Europe to either 195,000 or 225,000 on each side.

Gorbachev's offer effectively rejected President George Bush's desire for the United States to keep 30,000 more troops in Europe than the Soviet Union.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said he would recommend to NATO allies in Ottawa a

response to the Soviet offer, but administration officials said he outlined the plan Sunday night without offering a response.

The Bush administration is known to be split on how far to reduce U.S. troop levels in Europe. Some hawkish members want Washington to insist on more troops than the Soviet Union as an acknowledgement that the West won the cold war.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told reporters that NATO needed more time to consider the latest Soviet offer.

"It's reasonable to have a little time to consider that, so I think the U.S. wanted to consult their allies and that's what they are doing," he said.

NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner told reporters that delegations of the two alliances would take up the Soviet offer at Vienna talks with a view to reaching a conventional forces reduction treaty for Europe.

"I don't think there will be an agreement on this proposal during this conference," he said.

But he said the ministers agreed the Ottawa meeting would give a strong impetus toward reaching a conventional forces in Europe (CFE) treaty before the end of the year.

On German unification, Woerner said NATO opposed having a united Germany that was not a member of the Western alliance.

"I think all the members of this alliance oppose the neutralisation of Germany," Woerner said.

On the other hand, spokesman Vitaly Churkin told reporters that West Germany's suggestion that a united Germany be a NATO member had been "strongly rejected" in Moscow.

Both sides were optimistic about progress on Bush's proposal for an open skies treaty permitting each alliance to fly over the territory of the other under certain conditions.

The ministers were to define the circumstances during talks Monday and Tuesday in Ottawa, then leave the talks to lower-level delegations for two more weeks.

U.S. officials said Baker was neutral about Gorbachev's approach, which he landed last week in Moscow.

Other administration sources said the Bush administration had

not decided on a position among the State Department, Pentagon and National Security Council.

An agreement on a troop ceiling would set the stage for a treaty later this year between NATO and Warsaw Pact allies to remove about 400,000 Soviet and 100,000 American soldiers from Europe.

Bush proposed in his State of the Union speech on Jan. 31 a ceiling of 225,000 U.S. and Soviet soldiers each on foreign soil in Europe with not more than 195,000 in Central Europe.

Gorbachev countered at a Kremlin meeting with Baker that the 195,000 ceiling should apply from the Atlantic to the Ural mountains inside the Soviet Union. That would mean the 30,000 troops Bush wants to keep in Belgium, Britain, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain or Turkey — all NATO allies — would be withdrawn.

Otherwise, Gorbachev said he would accept the 225,000 ceiling cut without restrictions in Central Europe.

That could benefit the Soviets. Since most of their troops — about 385,000 in East Germany alone — are in Central Europe, the Soviets would be able to keep 30,000 more soldiers in the central region than the Bush plan allows.

Baker told Gorbachev he could not give him an answer until he consulted with the 15 NATO allies.

The U.S. reply is unlikely to be announced before Baker's departure for Washington on Tuesday night. However, his reaction to the Gorbachev plan at a news conference in Moscow suggests an eventual U.S. green light.

The talks in Moscow paid off with an agreement that Bush and Gorbachev would sign in Washington in June providing for the destruction of all their chemical weapons in 10 years, if all other nations capable of making poison gas sign a treaty.

On the strategic weapons front, meanwhile, Baker's trip cleared up questions about exchanging data from missile tests and how to identify which warplanes are carrying air-launched cruise missiles.

An air-launched cruise missile was reached on sea-launched cruise missiles.

The two sides agreed there is no reliable way to keep track of the weapon, which can be carried on submarines and aboard warships. Therefore, they decided to keep it out of the treaty

ESTELI, Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega accused his major rivals in upcoming elections of being allies with former National Guardsmen released from prison last week.

Ortega's principal opponent for the presidency, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro of the United National Opposition coalition (UNO) also was out on the campaign trail Sunday, attracting 20,000 people to a campaign rally.

"Those who think that the UN-UNO is an option, I tell them that the UN-UNO is stuffed with people who were in the guard with

Somoza on July 19, 1979. They will be defeated again," Ortega said in this town 144 kilometres north of Managua.

Ortega kept calling his rivals GN-UNO, implying an alliance between former President Anastasio Somoza's National Guard, or GN, and the 14-party UNO political opposition.

The president told 50,000 people that the voters would surround the opposition the same way Sandinista soldiers surrounded the National Guard in 1979, driving Somoza from power.

which is the main backer of the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

Thailand plays host to the guerrilla coalition fighting that government, but Chitichai has been at the forefront of recent efforts to bring the opposing factions together.

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

58 die in Burmese weekend fighting

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — At least 58 people were killed in heavy weekend fighting as Burmese government forces overran a rebel headquarters, and thousands of refugees poured into neighbouring Thailand, Thai and rebel sources said Monday. A bomb blast Saturday night killed 33 Karen guerrillas at their stronghold of Kaw Moo Ra, just inside Burma, a spokesman for the ethnic rebel group said. The bomb exploded at Kaw Moo Ra as guerrillas were carrying captured weapons and munitions back to the camp, the spokesman said, adding that he suspended the munitions had been booby-trapped by government troops. Thai border police said that Sunday, they found the bodies of 19 Burmese and six Karen fighters at the Thai village of Ban Waeng Kaew, directly opposite Kaw Moo Ra, some 400 kilometres north of Bangkok.

Fire guts London's Savoy Theatre

LONDON (R) — London's 19th century Savoy Theatre, famed for its stagings of Gilbert and Sullivan operas, was devastated by fire early Monday. A fire brigade spokesman said flames 15 metres high, fanned by high winds, destroyed the roof and interior floors of the Art Deco theatre, one of London's best-known playhouses. The cause of the blaze was not known. "At first there was just dense smoke and then all of a sudden it went up like a tinder box with the flames roaring away," said Terry Robinson, a kitchen worker at the adjacent Savoy Hotel. Some 130 guests and 29 staff were evacuated from the luxury hotel, which was untouched by the fire. Sixty firemen finally brought the theatre blaze under control. Two were slightly injured.

Cyclone injures 500 in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AP) — A cyclone has battered two northern Bangladesh districts injuring more than 500 people and damaging some 10,000 huts, news reports said Monday. The storm's 130-kilometre-per-hour winds also destroyed vegetable crops in much of Panchagarh and neighbouring Niphamuri Sunday afternoon, the Bengali language newspaper Itihaq said. Panchagarh is about 350 kilometres north of Dhaka. Telephone and telegraph lines in districts were snapped and electrical lines were brought down by falling trees and branches, Itihaq said. Most of the injuries resulted from collapsing houses, but some people also were hurt by hail that accompanied the storm, it said. A relief ministry official in Dhaka said they were aware of the cyclone but did not have details.

Congress tilted to right, group says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Congress edged rightward in 1989 despite "flashes of courage" on abortion, flag-burning and capital gains taxes, the liberal Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) says. A compilation of voting records on 20 key issues by the ADA showed an average 50 per cent approval of the liberal position in the House, down from 52 per cent in 1988, and a decline from 52 per cent to 48 per cent of liberal causes in the Senate. With 100 per cent "right" votes on the 20 issues, the group hailed Democratic Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois and Patrick Leahy of Vermont as its "liberal champions" in the Senate. Congressman Don Edwards of California, who has had perfect pro-liberal ADA ratings since 1982, led a contingency of 25 House members with 100 per cent liberal voting records last year, as compiled by the ADA and released this week.

COLUMN

Billy Idol undergoes 2nd operation

LOS ANGELES (R) — British rock star Billy Idol has undergone a second operation for a compound leg fracture, suffered in a motorcycle accident, his press agent said. Idol, 34, was driving home last Wednesday without a helmet when his Harley Davidson motorcycle was involved in a collision with a car in Hollywood, police said. He had just finished recording an album, Charmed Life. Idol, whose hits include White Wedding and Dancing With Myself underwent a seven-hour operation at Cedars Sinai Medical Centre the same day for a fractured right leg and cuts on his wrist and head.

Academy to examine Sakharov's brain

NEW YORK (R) — The Soviet Academy of Sciences' Brain Institute has cut the late Andrei Sakharov's brain into blocks and preserved them in paraffin so its scientists can examine them, according to this week's edition of time magazine. The institute's director says he hopes the post mortem will shed light on the relationship between brain construction and scientific genius. The nuclear physicist, who died last December, played a leading role in developing the first Soviet hydrogen bomb in 1953 but later gave up his prestigious career to become the figurehead of the Soviet dissident movement. He won the Nobel peace prize in 1975. The institute was founded in 1926 to study Lenin's brain and has since probed the brains of Russians including Josef Stalin and Maxim Gorky.

U.S. town braces for showdown over furs

ASPEN, Colorado (R) — This small mountain town — a winter playground for the likes of financier Donald Trump and a long list of Hollywood film stars — will vote Tuesday on whether to become the first U.S. community to outlaw the sale of wild-animal furs. The issue has polarized leaders and the 3,200 registered voters of this one-time silver-mining town. One side feels media attention on the proposal has helped in a year of sparse snowfall. But the other side feels uncomfortable that Aspen is in the international spotlight for something other than its world-class ski slopes, glitterati and million-dollar housing. The fur-ban proposal came from mayor Bill Stirling and his wife, animal-rights activist Katharine Thalberg, just as the winter season opened and the opulent were converging in their private jets. Now an effort is under way to remove the mayor and city council who put the fur question on the ballot.

Rostropovich back in S. Union

MOSCOW (AP) — Celebrated cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich, whose Soviet citizenship was restored in January after 12 years of official disgrace, returned to his homeland to a jubilant VIP welcome. Rostropovich, accompanied by his wife, opera singer Galina Vishnevskaya, received a tumultuous welcome at Sheremetyevo Airport where hundreds of friends, fans and journalists gathered to meet his flight from Tokyo. "Welcome back, welcome home," fans yelled as the couple was escorted to the VIP lounge to be officially greeted by Soviet Culture Minister Nikolai Gubenko and an entourage that included U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock and French Culture Minister Jack Lang. "It was like a welcome for a visiting head of state," commented a Soviet who watched the festivities at the airport.

Indian intelligence agent killed in Kashmir; 12 injured in bus blast

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Suspected Kashmiri militants Monday shot and killed an Indian intelligence agent and blew up a state-owned bus, injuring 12 people, police and witnesses said.

A shopkeeper also was killed Monday when security forces opened fire on a mob in Srinagar — centre of the violent movement pushing for the secession of predominantly Muslim Jammu-Kashmir from mostly Hindu India.

The deaths brought to 85 the number of people killed in the latest round of separatist violence that flared on Jan. 20 after a government crackdown.

The intelligence officer killed Monday was D.K. Razdan, a Hindu, according to a police official who cannot be identified under briefing rules. Razdan was gunned down by unidentified gunmen on the street outside his home in central Srinagar.

Monday's bombing damaged an empty state bus at the Srinagar bus terminal, the official said. Witnesses, all speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least 12 mechanics sitting in a bus nearby were injured.

Abdul Aziz, one of those injured in the explosion, said he and his colleagues were about to drive to the workshop when the blast occurred. Most injuries were caused by flying metal splinters, said Abdul Aziz, who wore bandages around his head and ears.

Police officials said shopkeeper Ghulam Hasan Gargoo was killed by a stray bullet when paramilitary soldiers opened fire on a mob in the Zaina Kadal residential area.

The soldiers fired because they feared the mob assembled in the street might attack them, the officials said. Witnesses claimed Gargoo was deliberately killed

because he was militant sympathiser.

3 Pakistanis killed

Meanwhile a Pakistani official said at least three people were killed when Indian border guards fired at demonstrators trying to cross from Pakistan in the disputed Kashmir region.

In Pakistan, state-run television said Indian border guards killed up to six people Sunday when they stormed a ceasefire line separating Pakistan and India's Jammu-Kashmir state.

However, a spokesman for Pakistan's Defence Ministry could confirm only three deaths and four people injured.

Muslim militants in Jammu-Kashmir have been fighting to secede from India and either be independent or join with Muslim Pakistan.

Ortega accuses opposition of links with former guards

ESTELI, Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega accused his major rivals in upcoming elections of being allies with former National Guardsmen released from prison last week.

Ortega's principal opponent for the presidency, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro of the United National Opposition coalition (UNO) also was out on the campaign trail Sunday, attracting 20,000 people to a campaign rally.

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which is the main backer of the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

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Valkov said Friday that Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, who is in the 30-member delegation accompanying Ryzhkov, was to meet Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetvita.

Apart from Cambodia, the Soviet military presence in the region also is expected to be discussed.

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Moscow, Bangkok discuss Cambodia

BANGKOK (AP) — Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov held talks Monday with his Thai counterpart, Chatichai Choonhavan, the state-owned Radio Thailand reported.

The talks were expected to focus on the war in Cambodia, Soviet Ambassador Anatole Valkov has said.

After meeting Chatichai, Ryzhkov was to have an audience with King Bhumipol Adulyadej.

Ryzhkov is on a two-day visit to Thailand as part of an Asian-Pacific tour that also includes Australia and Singapore. Each of the countries on his itinerary have roles in the Cambodian peace efforts.

Australia last year proposed that the United Nations play a major role in settling the Cambodian conflict. Its proposal has gained widespread support, particularly from the Soviet Union,

which is the main backer of the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

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Moscow recently announced it has withdrawn most of its forces from Cam Ranh Bay naval base in Vietnam. Valkov said this with-

drawal demonstrated that the Soviets are sincere about reducing confrontation in the region and that the United States should follow suit.

Valkov said the Soviet presence at Cam Ranh Bay will become purely symbolic, but he did not say when the withdrawal will be completed.

He said, however, that arms supplies to Cambodia had to be stopped as part of an international agreement "which should concern assistance to all parties".

Rival factions in the Cambodian conflict are due to meet in Jakarta on Feb. 26-28 for another round of informal talks to try to end the 11 years of fighting.

But the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the guerrilla factions, have indicated they will not attend.

Meanwhile, an Australian fact-

finding team that was sent to Cambodia last week to gather information for Cambodia's peace proposal was scheduled to return to Bangkok Tuesday, an Australian diplomat said.

On Monday, the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council planned to brief U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on efforts to enhance the United Nations' role in the peace process — including plans to administer the country and supervise elections.

The permanent members — the Soviet Union, China, the United States, Britain and France — met in New York Sunday to resume talks on Cambodia that began last month in Paris.

The full 15-member Security Council will have to approve measures increasing the U.N. role in Cambodian peace efforts.

Cheney to go ahead with Manila visit

HONOLULU (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney will go ahead with a planned visit to the Philippines next week despite President Corason Aquino's refusal to meet with him.

"We value our relationship with the government of the Philippines and expect to have productive meetings there," Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said Sunday in response to the apparent snub.

Aquino said in her weekly radio broadcast that she would not meet Cheney during the visit.

"He (Cheney) doesn't take it personally," said Williams, adding that Cheney would hold bilateral military talks as scheduled with Defence Minister Fidel Ramos during the Feb. 19-20 visit.

"We obviously assumed he would meet with her personally. But obviously she doesn't want to meet with him."

U.S.-Philippine relations have grown increasingly strained in recent months as the time draws near for negotiations between the

two countries on the future of U.S. bases there, including Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base.

Aquino met with the two U.S. officials last month and she denied Sunday that she had been advised either to call elections or to address problems within the government.

Cheney is visiting Hawaii on the first leg of a Pacific rim tour that will take him to South Korea Wednesday and to the Philippines and Japan before returning to Washington on Feb. 24.

World rejoices at Mandela release, urges end to apartheid

LONDON (AP) — Nelson Mandela's emergence Sunday from nearly half a lifetime in prison touched off international rejoicing and brought praise from world leaders, tempered by appeals for swifter progress toward dismantling apartheid.

As Mandela, 71, walked from the grounds of his prison outside Cape Town into crowds of supporters who had ceaselessly campaigned for his release, the African National Congress (ANC) welcomed him "to the warm embrace of our people and the national liberation movement."

Indian Prime Minister V. P. Singh called Mandela a "valiant soldier of independence, justice and equality," and French Premier Michel Rocard invited him to visit Paris.

Gabon's chief of state urged other African nations to restore diplomatic links with South Africa, and Britain said it was time to reconsider international sanctions.

Thousands of joyous anti-apartheid campaigners thronged London's Trafalgar Square, singing, dancing and waving flags of the newly legalised ANC. Many also celebrated in Amsterdam, where buses bore ANC flags.

In Warsaw, Solidarity leader Lech Walesa called Mandela a man who devoted his life to the realisation of the idea of equality of all people.

"Experiences of recent months show that there is no room in the world any more for regimes which hold human rights in contempt," Walesa said.

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, where the ANC has its headquarters in exile, urged the

ANC to suspend its guerrilla campaign and begin a dialogue with the white-minority government of President F.W. de Klerk. "The time for talking has come," Kaunda said.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd also suggested that Mandela's release provided a "surge of hope" that should be harnessed to start negotiations between the government and the black majority.

But the ANC said in a statement released in Harare, Zimbabwe, that it was not prepared to open talks until the government has lifted the state of emergency, released all political prisoners, and repealed racial laws that form the basis of the apartheid system of segregation.

U.S. President George Bush telephoned Mandela to personally invite him to the White House.

"I stated to him our desire to see a peaceful evolution towards a totally peaceful free South Africa, a society without prejudice, a society of total freedom," Bush told reporters late Sunday afternoon.

"He told me that he wanted to consult some of his colleagues, but that he expected he would be able to accept my invitation," Bush said.

In New York, United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Mandela's release and De Klerk's recent reforms "mark a turning point in the process for the peaceful settlement of the political situation."

He added that he hoped the government would soon lift the state of emergency and release all remaining political prisoners.

The Nigerian government said Mandela's release was "positive

proof" that international sanctions have worked. But British leaders said they would contact the European Community and the Commonwealth of former British colonies to encourage restoration of ties with South Africa.

"When people are doing the right thing boldly and courageously, as President De Klerk is, it seems quite absurd to stick to sticks to beat them with, however small these sticks may be," said British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"The die is now cast. The way is open for peaceable negotiations. What is the use of trying to hit out? Why not help the process," Thatcher added.

Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark said his country's sanctions will stay in effect until the apartheid laws are scrapped.

Canada's prime minister, Brian Mulroney, also wrote a letter to Mandela inviting him to visit Ottawa. "We celebrate with the world that your freedom from prison today may soon lead to the freedom of all South Africans from the injustice of apartheid," the letter said.

New hope for freedom

Sweden, which has imposed strong economic sanctions against South Africa, said Mandela's release created new hope for democracy and freedom.

"Through his courage, commitment and moral strength, he has been a constant source of inspiration for those who hold the ideals of freedom, democracy and fairness high," Swedish Premier Ingvar Carlsson said.

Coretta Scott King, widow of

slain U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., said Mandela "has shown us the tremendous power of unearned suffering for a just cause."

"I sincerely hope that the government and the anti-apartheid movement will continue to embrace the non-violent spirit in their negotiations as they seek a multi-racial democracy based on one person, one vote," Mrs. King said.

Singh, the Indian prime minister, called Mandela a symbol of the aspirations of the downtrodden, exploited and oppressed people of the world, and said his imprisonment proved "the futility of repression and the hollowness of the system and ideology of apartheid."

"Your release demonstrates the supremacy of the human spirit and the inevitability of the triumph of justice and reason over the forces of racism, suppression and violence of man against man," Singh said.

Portugal's president, Mario Soares, released a letter to Mandela saying, "I'm sure under your responsible leadership, South Africans will be able to live together in a democratic, multi-racial country."

Australia's Prime Minister Bob Hawke described Mandela's release as the most positive sign the world has seen that "the walls of the abhorrent apartheid system may soon be breached."

Hawke and Spain's Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez also urged the South African government to build on the good will flowing from Mandela's release.

In Italy, Premier Giulio Andreotti welcomed the "gesture

capable of giving a fundamental impetus to dialogue between all South Africans."

Israel welcomed the South African government's move as a step toward improving relations between the two countries.

"Great moment in history"

Japan's foreign minister, Taro Nakayama, said he hoped Mandela would play a major role in national reconciliation in South Africa, and Jordanian Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddine agreed.

"It's a great moment to see a national leader who has suffered for 27 years go free and have the chance to lead his country to freedom... it's a great moment in the history of mankind," Izzeddine said.

Thousands of well-wishers gathered for a street party outside the South African embassy overlooking London's Trafalgar Square, where anti-apartheid protesters have staged a round-the-clock picket since April 19, 1986, demanding Mandela's release.

Busloads of police officers were standing by, but there was no violence. The crowd waved ANC flags, sang and danced. A banner was placed at the foot of Admiral Nelson's Column in the center of the square, temporarily renaming it "Mandela's Column."

Commonwealth Secretary-General Sommy Ramphal welcomed the release of Mandela Sunday but said the Commonwealth would maintain pressure on South Africa to end apartheid.

"Mandela's release is a triumph for national resistance

and international pressure over apartheid's custodians at home and its apologists abroad — a triumph in which the Commonwealth shares proudly," Ramphal said in a statement issued in London.

But he said there was resentment on the historic day of Mandela's release South Africa's three-year state of emergency was still in force.

"Mandela is being released under conditions of emergency with police powers unbridled and rampant. His safety in freedom is a primary responsibility that Pretoria must guarantee."

Apartheid's policy of race segregation must not be allowed to compromise the prospects for change, Ramphal said, adding, "until that change becomes irreversible the Commonwealth will sustain its pressure for apartheid's end."

"It is not yet time to demobilise the international support for apartheid's victims."